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The Elizabethan Age (Description)

The Elizabethan Age was a period characterized by virtual political stability. Queen Elizabeth I was a lover of theatre and literature; the arts flourished under her rule. After Elizabeth, King James ascended to the throne and he was also an avid supporter of the arts. When he died, Charles I, his son, inherited the throne. His reign ended with a bloody civil war, which was won by the Puritans, who remained in control until Charles II returned and took over. The dominant religion during this period was Protestantism and the people were made to go to church or face a fine. They were allowed to hold other beliefs as long as they did not flaunt them or encourage others to join them. All boys were educated, but the girls were not-unless they were nobility. The literacy rate greatly increased during the Elizabethan Age. Overall, this age was full of literary and theatrical expression that catered to Shakespeare’s interests.

"The Elizabethan Age." *Home*. National Endowment for the Arts. Web. 31 Mar. 2012. <http://www.shakespeareinamericancommunities.org/education/elizabethan-age>.

Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day?

By: William Shakespeare

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

Thou art more lovely and more temperate.

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,

And summer's lease hath all too short a date.

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,

And often is his gold complexion dimmed;

And every fair from fair sometime declines,

By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;

But thy eternal summer shall not fade,

Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,

Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade,

When in eternal lines to Time thou grow'st.

So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,

So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

"Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?" *Poets.org*. Academy of American Poets. Web. 31 Mar. 2012. <http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15555>.

Critical Article Summary

The article is mainly a translation of Shakespeare’s poem. Dickie, the author, explains all of the lines and the meaning behind them. The poem is all about the undying beauty of the woman Shakespeare is describing. She is more beautiful and everlasting than a summer day and her loveliness will never die. The poem is eternal; it will never fade because people will continue to read it forever- just like the woman’s attractiveness is eternal. Dickie’s analysis serves to give the reader a better understanding of the poem and point out the significant meanings woven through the piece.

<http://bestword.ca/William_Shakespeare_Shall_I_Compare_Thee_to_a_Summer's_Day_Analysis.html>